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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Date: February 19, 2004

Gerard M. DEARING, et al.

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For:

PERFORMANCE OPTIMIZATION FOR DATA SHARING ACROSS BATCH SEQUENTIAL PROCESSES AND ON-LINE TRANSACTION PROCESSES

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments and remarks into the above-referenced patent application:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee Service" under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 19, 2004.

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